

CLAIMS:

1. A prosthetic valve in the form of a flap valve which includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the valve only in one direction, the or each flap being made of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal.
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2. A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes a single flap arranged to close against a supporting wall mounted upon a peripheral stent.
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3. A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said a valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.
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4. A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 3 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said the flaps are mounted.
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5. A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.
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6. A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib around the perimeter of the valve.
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7. A prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.
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8. A prosthetic valve as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.
9. A prosthetic valve as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: woven wire, knitted wire, chainmail, perforated plate.